

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 43-46 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 43, 44 and 46 have been amended. In particular, these claims have been returned to form they were in prior to the amendment of October 28, 2004. Thus, Applicant believes that these changes introduce no new matter. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,470,085 to Uranaka et al. ("Uranaka"). Uranaka has a USPTO filing date of August 21, 1997. This filing date is later than the November 29, 1996 foreign priority date of the present application.

In response to an earlier rejection, we submitted an English translation of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 8-319502 to perfect the claim to priority. Thus, in light of this perfected priority claim, Applicant respectfully requests that Uranaka be removed from the prior art and that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4396US1.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4396US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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